

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/914,336

Examiner

Pierre E. Elisca

Applicant(s)

TAMAI ET AL.

Art Unit

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**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 8/25/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2,4-14,18 and 26-31.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

*Pierre E. Elisca*  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

## REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. This is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance. The closest prior art US 20050234859 Ebata, Jun discloses an information processing apparatus, resource managing apparatus, attribute modifiability judging method, and computer-readable storage medium.

JP02003296396A, Takahashi et al discloses an expected life cycle cost evaluation system of building and recording medium in which expected life cycle cost evaluation program is recorded.

However, neither Ebata nor Takahashi singularly or in combination fail to disclose the recited feature:

As per claims 2, 27 and 30 judging means for judging whether the received access identifier matches one of the stage identifiers in the identifier holding means, access information receiving means for receiving access information from the access device, when the access identifier matches one of the stage identifiers, and accessing means for accessing a stage storage area that is identified by the access identifier, based on the received access information, wherein the secret receiving means includes: authenticator outputting means for generating a first authenticator and outputting the first authenticator to the access device acquire means for acquiring a second authenticator that is obtained by encrypting the first authenticator by an encryption algorithm using the access identifier as an encryption key, from the access device, and encrypting means for encrypting the first authenticator by the encryption algorithm using the stage identifiers each as an encryption key, to generate third authenticators, the

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judging means judges whether the acquired second authenticator matches one of the third authenticators, and if the second authenticator matches one of the third authenticators, judges that the access identifier matches on the stage identifiers, and the accessing means access a stage storage area identified by a stage identifier which is used as an encryption key to generate the third authenticator that matches the second authenticator, as the stage storage area identified by the access identifier”.

As per claims 18 and 31 “ the access information sending means sends the access information to the contactless IC tag, when the contactless IC Tag (a) encrypts the first authenticator by the encryption algorithm using the stage identifiers each as an encryption key to generate third authenticators, (b) judges whether the second authenticator matches one of the third authenticators, and (c) if the second authenticator matches one of the third authenticators, judges that the access identifier properly identifies one the stage storage areas”.

As per claim 26 “ stage storage areas, as many as the stages of the life cycle of the item, each of the stage storage areas including an information storage area readable by using a first encryption key common to all stage storage areas, and an information storage area readable by using a second encryption key unique to a corresponding stage storage area, each of the stage storage areas storing an encryption key unique to a corresponding stage storage area, and stage identifiers, each stage identifier identifying a different one of the stage storage areas”.

### ***Conclusion***

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Pierre E. Elisca whose telephone number is 571 272 6706. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30 to 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on 571 272 6712. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Pierre Eddy Elisca

**Primary Patent Examiner**

**November 07, 2005**